

Account manager for the General Electric Company to deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May 2003 to June 2004. During his time in the combat zone, he was responsible for training Iraqi Security Forces and providing security to convoys throughout Southern Iraq. After returning from his tour in Iraq, John choose to go onto active duty as an Army Reserve Officer and move to Lubbock, Texas where he served in the 413th Civil Affairs Battalion from 2006 to 2008. In 2008, John moved to Columbus, Ohio to take command of the 342nd Military Police Company. As its commander, Major Shipe deployed to Iraq for a second time in 2008. This time John served in Tikrit and was partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces for more twelve months. Upon completion of his second combat tour, John was selected for the prestigious Army Congressional Fellowship Program. During his fellowship he was chosen to serve on my staff where he utilized his extensive military experience to provide expert advice on military and veterans' issues. In May 2011, he arrived in the House Army Liaison Division where he assumed his role as a Legislative Liaison and continued to honorably serve as a conduit between the Army and Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a pleasure to work closely with Major Shipe over the last few years of his decorated career. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Major Shipe for dedicating his life in service to his country. For all he and his family, have given and continue to give to our country; we are in their debt. We wish him, his wife Kelli, and their three children Jacob, John and Kinsley all the best as they continue their journey to his next assignment in the United States Army.

#### HONORING THE HARD TIMES CAFÉ

#### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hard Times Café on the occasion of their 20th anniversary to recognize its contribution to the culture and economy of the great state of Minnesota.

Founded in 1992 as a 24-hour restaurant, the Hard Times Cafe has become a staple of the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis. The Cafe was started by eight employees out of the vestiges of a failing restaurant in the same location, The Urban Peasant. They came together to form a new cooperatively owned business that has become known for its gritty ambiance, affordable prices, and large selection of vegan and vegetarian food. The Cafe is open 22 hours a day, only closing between the hours of 4 am and 6 am.

After closing in August 2007 for required maintenance that was meant to last a few weeks, the Hard Times Cafe was forced to remain closed for a matter of months. With some assistance from a fellow Minneapolis worker cooperative, the Seward Community Café, they were able to reopen their doors at midnight on December 16, 2007 with many new improvements. The resilience of the workers at the Hard Times Café is a testament to the vitality of the American entrepreneurial

spirit and the ingenuity of Minnesotans. I applaud them for taking the initiative and creating an atmosphere that is truly unique to Minneapolis.

The Hard Times Café also contributes to the civic engagement of the city of Minneapolis; Cam Gordon, the Minneapolis Second Ward City Council Member, holds his open office hours in the Café on the first Tuesday morning of each month.

I truly appreciate everything that the Hard Times Café has contributed to Minneapolis, and I thank them for their contributions.

#### HONORING BARBARA KOIRTYOHANN

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Barbara Koirtyohann upon her retirement and to reflect on her years of service to her community.

Barbara has served as the longtime Director of Public Affairs at Hallmark Cards, Ltd. Her influential leadership has extended beyond Hallmark as well, lending her talents as co-chair of the Postal Affairs Committee with the Greeting Card Association and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Public Affairs Council. Beyond her profession, Barbara has also contributed to her community through many civic and charitable organizations in Kansas City. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Truman Heartland Community Foundation, supporting the efforts of the Truman Medical System; as an Advisory Board member for the Hope House, a domestic violence shelter in Lee's Summit; and as a member of the Missouri Mansion Preservation Board, working to preserve and maintain the Missouri Governor's mansion in Jefferson City.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me, her daughter Cindy and grandson Lucas, and all her friends and family in commending Barbara Koirtyohann for her accomplishments and her leadership professionally and her dedication to her community.

#### THE AMERICAN ENERGY MANUFACTURING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2012*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6582, the American Energy Manufacturing Technical Corrections Act as it provides technical corrections and regulatory certainty to a number of domestic manufacturers. The legislation, which I am proud to cosponsor, has bi-partisan and bi-cameral support, not to mention the support of manufacturers and the NGO community. More specifically I would like to thank Chairman Whitfield and Mr. ADERHOLT for including H.R. 482, the Water Heater Rating Improvement Act of 2011, or Section 3 of the underlying bill, that will fix a regulatory problem related to the test method-

ology that the Department of Energy uses to calculate the efficiency levels of water heaters, which the Department has acknowledged is broken. The legislation will also level the playing field for domestic water heater manufacturers vs. foreign manufacturers and provide the necessary regulatory and business certainty that domestic water heater manufacturers have been calling for over four years. This will also lead to significant energy saved by highly efficient U.S. produced water heaters, many of which were designed in my home state of Wisconsin. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the legislation has the potential of adding up to 1,000 jobs in domestic water heater factories, one of which is in Wisconsin, and thousands of more indirect jobs associated with the manufacturers supply chain.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I'd again like to thank Chairman WHITFIELD and Mr. WAXMAN for their hard work on the bill and steering an accommodative process, and Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. CARNAHAN for their leadership on the legislation.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DINA MANFREDINI

#### HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowan and supercentenarian Dina Manfredini on being named the most senior person in the world by the Gerontology Research Group. Dina is 115 years, 244 days young and resides in Johnston, Iowa.

Dina was born in April of 1897 in Italy before moving to the United States at age 23 where she would go on to marry and have four children. Ms. Manfredini has worked in Iowa to support her family since the 1940's when her husband was injured in Des Moines' coal mine, even cleaning houses for additional income well into her tenth decade of life.

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Dina's 115 years. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Dina has lived in three separate centuries through twenty U.S. Presidents and twenty-six Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled and, as of today, none can claim to be older than Dina.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Dina's amazing life. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Dina on reaching this incredible milestone, and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

#### IN HONOR OF THE CONNECTICUT VETERANS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

#### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on November 28th twelve new members were inducted

into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. I am happy to represent three of them in Congress. Manuel Michael Cardoza Jr. of Preston, Paul Francis Dillon of Gales Ferry, and Herbert Thomas Schacht of Quaker Hill have all served their country with distinction both in and out of uniform and each is well-deserving of their recent induction.

Manuel Cardoza served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953, including eight months stationed in Korea. Since returning home over fifty years ago, Manuel has actively assisted his fellow veterans. He served as a commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars posts in Norwich and Preston, as well as the American Legion Post 4. As a corporal medical technician in Korea, Manuel showed his commitment to public health through the organization of numerous health screenings throughout the state. He also served as President of the Connecticut Sickle Cell and New London Chapter Disease Research Foundation and sat on the Backus Hospital Board of Directors.

Paul Dillon is a retired Navy master chief radioman who served from 1956 to 1980. During his service in the Vietnam War, Dillon and many of his shipmates fell ill with diseases related to Agent Orange. Paul was troubled by the treatment and lack of care received for some of his colleagues. This inspired him to devote countless volunteer hours with veteran and military groups and to become a leader in the National Association for Uniformed Services. Even while he was battling prostate cancer, Paul worked hard to ensure that other Vietnam veterans received the benefits and treatments that they needed. He continues to assist retired service members and their families each Wednesday at the Retired Activities Office on the submarine base in Groton.

Herbert Schacht spent three years as a medical/surgical tech in during World War II, working stateside in Army hospitals. Upon leaving the military in 1946, Herbert returned home to work at the Waterford Country School. Although he intended to stay for a few short months, Herbert spent the next forty years aiding children with special needs and mental health issues. After retiring as the school's director, Herbert continued to dedicate much of his free time to volunteer work. He worked as a SCORE counselor where he assisted small businesses get off the ground, participated in AIDS work in Africa, and assisted an adoption service in Guatemala.

As veterans return home from serving abroad, they bring valuable skills and strength back to their communities and continue their services to the country. Their induction into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame is a powerful statement of their service to our country both in active duty and as veterans. It is a small elite who receive this honor, and they will be forever remembered at the State Capitol in Hartford as true leaders and examples for future generations. I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing and congratulating these extraordinary veterans.

#### HONORING SALVATORE CIARAMITARO

#### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the memory of Salvatore "Sam" Ciaramitaro, who passed away on November 27, 2012, at 73 years of age. Sam was born on March 22, 1939, in his native town of Terrasini, Sicily. He was a long-term resident of San Pedro, where he was married and raised his children. During his time in San Pedro, he worked as a commercial fisherman and was known for having the sharpest eyes on the ocean.

Sam was a master of many trades. He poured his heart into any task and completed each and every one with perfection and precision. He was his happiest when spending time with his children and grandchildren who were his pride and joy.

Sam Ciaramitaro is survived by his wife Grace; his daughter Geralyn and her husband, the recently elected Los Angeles Councilman Joe Buscaino who represents the 15th Council District in the City of Los Angeles; his daughter Mary Cammareri and her husband Mike Cammareri; his son Donny Ciaramitaro and his wife Sandra Ciaramitaro; his daughter Anna Moore; and his seven grandchildren, Paola, Gracelyn, Sammy, Brandon, Matteo, Gia, and Lucas. He will be truly missed by his friends and loved ones.

#### HONORING FORMER CONGRESSMAN JACK BROOKS

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of former Congressman Jack Brooks, the renowned Member of Congress from Beaumont, Texas. Congressman Brooks served the American people in the U.S. Congress for 42 years of his life. He was 89 years of age when he passed away last night.

Congressman Brooks was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1952. Almost immediately, Congressman Brooks turned his attention to increasing government transparency and efficiency, and this devotion became a guiding principle of his career. Congressman Brooks was pivotal in the passing of legislation that established the independent Offices of Inspector General, which oversee federal agencies in an effort to prevent fraud and waste. Congressman Brooks also crafted the standard by which the government must award federal contracts in an openly competitive process. By the end of his career, he was attributed with saving the American taxpayer billions of dollars by curbing government excess, and streamlining operations within the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government.

Congressman Brooks was also a renowned leader of social justice. Defying most of his colleagues in the Texas delegation, Congressman Brooks saw a greater future for America

through equality, and helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a true public servant devoted to the pursuit of the greater good, Congressman Brooks earned the support of labor unions, minorities, and pro-choice activists in a region that otherwise lacked the unified support for such progressive views at the time.

Mr. Speaker, Congressman Brooks was a leader among leaders, and was well regarded for his uncompromising character and integrity. As a fierce advocate for the American people, Congressman Brooks has left a lasting legacy and the indelible mark of progress in U.S. history. A true statesman, he set the bar to which all Members of Congress should aspire. I wish to extend my appreciation for his contributions to this body and to his country.

#### CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR TODD PAGANO OF THE NA- TIONAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF ON BEING NAMED U.S. PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

#### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 5, 2012*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is my esteemed honor to congratulate Dr. Todd Pagano, an associate professor and director of the Laboratory Science Technology program at Rochester Institute of Technology's (RIT) National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), for being named the 2012 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The U.S. Professors of the Year Awards Program, created in 1981, is the only national initiative specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Todd was selected from more than 300 applicants for this award. He is the first RIT faculty member to receive this award.

The world's first technological college for deaf students, NTID provides a world-class college education leading to jobs and career advancement for deaf and hard-of-hearing students from all 50 states. Though not deaf or hard-of-hearing, Professor Pagano's conviction to learn American Sign Language (ASL) in record time after receiving his Doctorate in Chemistry from Tufts University was already a feat in itself. His ability to effectively communicate with and inspire his students—who have a near 100 percent employment rate after graduation—is unparalleled.

While serving as Director of the Laboratory Science Technology Program and teaching a full-time class load, Professor Pagano has made it his personal mission to provide mentorship and opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to excel in the study of chemistry. He has championed the advancement of deaf and hard-of-hearing students attending NTID and witnessed the betterment and employment of countless students. As Dr. Pagano has said, "Knowing my students have acquired knowledge that can make a difference in their lives by helping them obtain a job is truly rewarding."

I am so proud of Professor Pagano and NTID and am grateful to have had the privilege to congratulate Todd and his wife—also